

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A media, comprising:  
  
a substrate;  
  
a colorant on the substrate; and  
  
a focus light absorbing material on the substrate.
2. The media of claim 1, wherein the substrate has a first and second surface, the colorant covers at least part of the first surface and the light absorbing material covers at least a portion of the second surface.
3. The media of claim 1, wherein the substrate has a first surface covered at least in part by the light absorbing material, the light absorbing material being covered at least in part by the colorant.
4. In a color transfer media formed from a substrate having a first surface, a colorant covering at least part of the first surface, the colorant being adapted to transfer to a receiving object after being radiated with a first source of radiation having a predetermined wavelength, the source of radiation being a selectable distance from the colorant wherein the selected distance is determined by radiating the media by a second source of radiation at a predetermined wavelength and sensing reflected radiation, an improvement comprising:  
  
a radiation absorbing coating covering at least in part the substrate between the colorant and the substrate, the radiation absorbing coating absorbing radiation at the predetermined wavelength so that the sensed reflected radiation is substantially a function of the thickness of the substrate and the colorant.
5. A colorant transfer media, comprising:

a substrate having first and second surfaces;

a colorant covering at least a part of the first surface, the colorant on the substrate creating a transfer surface for the colorant away from the substrate;  
and

a radiation absorbing layer formed between the colorant and the substrate.

6. A process of making a media, comprising the steps of:

forming a substrate having a first major surface;

forming a focus light absorbing layer on the first major surface; and

forming a colorant layer on the focus light absorbing layer.

7. A method for focusing a beam of radiation from a print head in a printing system, the beam of radiation falling within a range of values from a first wavelength to a second wavelength, that includes a donor and a receptor, the donor material transferring colorant to the receptor material when the donor material is impinged upon by the beam of radiation, comprising the steps of:

providing a donor having a radiation absorbing layer for absorbing radiation at a predetermined level at a third wavelength that is not between the first wavelength and second wavelength;

providing a second beam of radiation directed toward the donor, the second beam of radiation be at the third wavelength;

detecting a return signal of the second beam of radiation from the donor;

moving the print head as function of the return signal.

8. An image transfer system, comprising:

a substrate having a first major surface;  
a light absorbing layer formed on the substrate;  
a colorant layer formed on the first major surface; and  
a recipient.

9. The image transfer system of claim 8, wherein the light absorbing layer is formed between the colorant layer and the first surface.
10. The image transfer system of claim 8, wherein the substrate also has a second major surface, the light absorbing layer being formed on the second major surface of the substrate.
11. A printing system comprising:
  - a donor having a substrate a colorant layer and a light absorbing layer, the colorant layer releasing from substrate when impinged by radiation of a wavelength between first and second pre-selected wavelengths, the light absorbing layer substantially absorbing light at a third wavelength;
  - a recipient for receiving the colorant when released from the donor;
  - a printer head having first and second radiation sources, the first radiation source producing first radiation directed toward the donor, the first radiation having a wavelength between the first and second wavelengths and the second radiation source producing second radiation at a third wavelength directed toward the donor;
  - a detector for detecting a return signal from the second radiation; and
  - a focus mechanism for focusing the first radiation source as a function of the return signal.

12. The printing system of claim 11, wherein the light absorbing layer is formed between the substrate and the colorant layer.
13. The printing system of claim 11, wherein the substrate has first and second major surface, the colorant layer being formed on the first major surface and the light absorbing layer being formed on the second major surface.
14. The printing system of claim 11, wherein the light absorbing layer is formed as a part of the colorant layer.
15. The printing system of claim 11, wherein the focusing mechanism further comprises:
  - a processor in operational connection with the detector;
  - a positionable lens, the lens being positionable to adjust the focus of the first radiation;
  - a drive connected to the processor for positioning the lens as a function of the return signal, the processor receiving a representation of the return signal from the detector and producing a drive signal to the drive so that the first radiation is focused on the colorant.
16. A process of making a media, comprising the steps of:
  - forming a substrate having a first major surface;
  - forming a colorant layer on the first major surface; and
  - including a light absorbing material in the colorant layer>